

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding Final Office Action mailed November 9, 2009. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1 - 14, 16 - 17 and 20 and 21 remain pending. In particular, Applicants amend claims 1, 3 – 7, 9 – 11, 14, 20 and 21. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

I. Objections to the Drawings

The Office Action indicates that the previous objections to the drawings are maintained. In this regard, Applicant submits herewith new replacement sheets of drawings to be entered, in which:

- 1) Figures 5D and 5E have been amended to redirect a lead line from reference character 19-1 to provide better consistency with specification of the present invention; and
- 2) Figures 6 and 7 have been amended to re-label reference character 21 as reference character 22 and re-label reference character 22 as reference character 19-1.

Applicant respectfully asserts that these amendments introduce no new matter and are fully supported by the specification. Additionally, Applicant respectfully asserts that upon entry of the amendments to the drawings, the objections thereto have been accommodated.

II. Objections to the Claims

The Office Action indicates that claims 3 – 7, 20 and 21 are objected to due to various informalities. In this regard, Applicant has amended the claims and respectfully asserts that the objections have been accommodated.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action indicates that claims 1, 6 – 8 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication Number 2002-313572 (“Toyota”). Applicant respectfully traverses.

A. Claim 1 is Allowable Over Toyota

Claim 1 (as amended) recites:

1. An electroluminescent device comprising a substrate, ***a support layer having a plurality of recesses***, a light emissive structure on the substrate, the light emissive structure comprising organic light emissive material disposed between first and second electrode layers for supplying charge carriers into the organic light emissive material to cause it to emit light, ***the first and second electrode layers respectively underlying and overlying the organic light emissive material in a first recess of the plurality of recesses, and an electrically conductive region underlying the light emissive structure in a second recess of the plurality of recesses***, the second electrode layer and the electrically conductive region being in electrical connection through the thickness of the organic light emissive material.

(Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited art is legally deficient for the purpose of anticipating claim 1. In particular, the *Toyota* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features emphasized above in claim 1.

As can be seen from the foregoing amendments, one of the features recited in claim 1 involves an electroluminescent device having a substrate, a support layer having a plurality of recesses, and a light emissive structure on the substrate, wherein the light emissive structure includes organic light emissive material and an electrically conductive region. The organic light emissive material is disposed between first and second electrode layers for supplying charge carriers into the organic light emissive material to cause it to emit light, and the first and second electrode layers respectively underlies and overlies the organic light emissive material in a first recess of the plurality of recesses. The electrically conductive region, which is in electrical connection with the second electrode layer, is located in a second recess of the plurality of recesses.

In contrast, *Toyota* discloses an electroluminescent device including a first light emissive structure (3a) and a second light emissive structure (3b) formed on a plane surface of the substrate (2). *Toyota* does not disclose (or even reasonably suggest) an electroluminescent device having a support layer having a plurality of recesses in which a first layer, a second electrode layer, and an intervening organic light emissive material are located in a first recess, and an electrically conductive region in a second recess is in electrical connection with the second electrode layer. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be removed and that claim 1 be placed in condition for allowance.

B. Claims 6 – 8 and 17 are Allowable Over *Toyota*

Dependent claims 6 - 8 and 17 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 1. See, *In re Fine, Minnesota Mining and Mfg.Co. v. Chemque, Inc.*, 303 F.3d 1294, 1299 (Fed. Cir. 2002). Additionally, these dependent claims recite other features that can serve as independent bases for patentability.

IV. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action indicates that claims 9 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Toyota*. Additionally, the Office Action indicates that claims 2, 4, 5 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Toyota* in view of U.S. 6,046,547 ("*Nishio*"), and that claims 3, 10, 11 and 12 stand rejected as being unpatentable over *Toyota* in view of U.S. 2002/0057051 ("*Kobayashi*"). Further, the Office Action indicates that claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Toyota* in view of U.S. 6,861,799 ("*Friend*"). Applicant respectfully traverses.

A. Claims 2 - 5 are Allowable

Dependent claims 2 - 5 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 1, and the secondary references (e.g., *Nishio*

and *Kobayashi*) are inadequate for the purpose of remedying the deficiencies described above with respect to the rejection of claim 1. See, *In re Fine, Minnesota Mining and Mfg. Co. v. Chemque, Inc.*, 303 F.3d 1294, 1299 (Fed. Cir. 2002). Additionally, these dependent claims recite other features that can serve as independent bases for patentability.

B. Claim 9 is Allowable

Claim 9 (as amended) recites:

9. A method of fabricating an electroluminescent device comprising forming **a support layer having a plurality of recesses on a substrate** and fabricating a light emissive structure on the substrate, **the light emissive structure comprising organic light emissive material disposed between first and second electrode layers** for supplying charge carriers into the organic light emissive material to cause it to emit light, **the first and second electrode layers respectively underlying and overlying the organic light emissive material in a first recess** of the plurality of recesses, and **an electrically conductive region underlying the light emissive structure in a second recess** of the plurality of recesses, and forming an electrical connection between the second electrode layer and the electrically conductive region through the thickness of the organic light emissive material.

(Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited art is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 9 unpatentable. In particular, the *Toyota* does not teach or reasonably suggest at least the features emphasized above in claim 9. Notably, *Toyota* discloses an electroluminescent device including a first light emissive structure (3a) and a second light emissive structure (3b) formed on a plane surface of the substrate (2). Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be removed and that claim 9 be placed in condition for allowance.

C. Claims 10 – 14 and 16 are Allowable

Dependent claims 10 – 14 and 16 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 9, and the secondary references (e.g., *Nishio, Kobayashi* and *Friend*) are inadequate for the purpose of remedying the deficiencies described above with respect to the rejection of claim 9. See, *In re Fine*,

Minnesota Mining and Mfg.Co. v. Chemque, Inc., 303 F.3d 1294, 1299 (Fed. Cir. 2002).

Additionally, these dependent claims recite other features that can serve as independent bases for patentability.

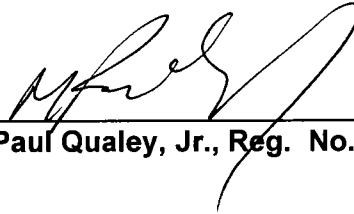
CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested.

Any other statements in the Office Action that are not explicitly addressed herein are not intended to be admitted.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



M. Paul Qualey, Jr., Reg. No. 43,024

**THOMAS, KAYDEN,
HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, L.L.P.**
Suite 1500
600 Galleria Parkway N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(770) 933-9500